

U.S. Serial No. 10/671,718

500.43154X00

REMARKS

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

Claims 1-20 are pending.

The Examiner objected to the drawings as containing reference characters not mentioned in the specification. The Applicants have amended the specification to add the missing reference numerals.

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons set forth on Page 3 of the Office Action. Specifically, the Examiner found that the "inclusion degree" and step of "calculating an inclusion degree" were not properly defined. The Applicants have amended the claims to address the Examiner's concern, noting that the Examiner's suggestion to consider the claim language of Claim 15 has not been adopted with regard to the rejected independent claims, because the embodiment recited in Claim 15 is not co-extant with the embodiments recited in the rejected independent claims. In particular, not all of the claims require the finding of a block as relevant if both of two conditions are met; in some embodiments, one similarity is sufficient to deem a block as relevant.

Concerning Claim 4, the claim has been amended to address the Examiner's concern.

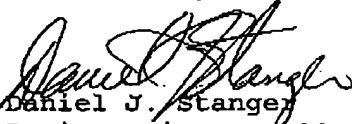
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The Applicants note that the Examiner has found Claims 1-20 to contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, if any of the foregoing amendments is deemed insufficient to place a claim in condition for allowance, the Applicants' representative requests a telephone call at the number below to resolve the matter before another Office Action is issued.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,


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